24 November 1981

Dr Kurt Waldheim
Secretary General
The United Nations
New York NY 10017

Dear Dr Waldheim,

I should be grateful if you would refer to my letter of 13 June 1980 and to Mr Fitzpatrick's reply on your behalf, about the situation in Eritrea. I enclose copies of this correspondence for your easy reference.

The situation continues to be as serious. In fact, according to information we have recently received, the dangers have greatly increased by the transfer of stocks of GA gas to the southern part of the country.

The Ethiopian authorities have always in the past denied possession of nerve gas, but the information we have suggests the contrary.

Of course it is imperative that everything possible be done to prevent the use of such a weapon, and we appeal to the United Nations to act in this matter immediately, by putting all possible pressure on the Ethiopian authorities and by initiating international condemnation of so grave a threat to many innocent lives.

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam
Secretary General

cc Ld Avebury